



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
HYDROCARBON POLLUTION REMEDIATION PROJECT
HYPREP...Remediating the Environment and Restoring Livelihoods

HYPREP HERALD

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OVER 50% PHASE 1 SHORELINE CLEAN-UP DONE



FLUSHING OF TRAPPED OIL

**FISH STOCK STUDY IN OGONI INDICATES POSITIVE
SIGNS OF ECOSYSTEM GOODS AND SERVICES RECOVERY**

**STAKEHOLDERS EXPRESS SATISFACTION
WITH HYPREP'S PERFORMANCE**
- As Prof. Zabbey Presents Mid-Term Scorecard

**OGONI CLEAN-UP: MONARCH HAILS
HYPREP IMPLEMENTATION MODEL**
- Urges Sustained Support for Project

**HYPREP
HERALD
NOT
TO BE
SOLD**

THE PC'S DESK



PROF. NENIBARINI ZABBEY
PROJECT COORDINATOR
(HYPREP)

In the May and June series of this monthly bulletin, the HYPREP Herald, we evidentially reported milestones achieved on the Ogoni Clean-up by the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) in the past two years of the Renewed Hope National Agenda. We capped the serialisation of the accelerated achievements with a midterm stakeholders' engagement and scorecard presentation and used the event to garner feedback to optimise service delivery. The event was attended by a broad spectrum of representatives of all strata of the Ogoni community and other stakeholders, such as the civil society, the media and representatives of Renaissance Africa Energy Company Limited.

At the well-attended event, HYPREP briefed the stakeholders on verifiable progress recorded in remediating oil-impacted areas in Ogoni and restoration of the people's livelihood and the efforts being made to accelerate the clean-up in all the thematic areas. The brief had two parts. My welcome address and a detailed Powerpoint presentation. Given the significance of the midterm

stakeholder engagement and in line with our inclusive policy, I decided to reproduce verbatim excerpts of my address for the benefit of stakeholders who did not attend the 20 June 2025 midterm meeting.

“This midterm engagement is important because it allows us to present tangible evidence of progress in the Ogoni clean-up effort, reinforce accountability, deepen transparency, and most importantly, enables HYPREP to interact directly with the communities and stakeholders who are the heartbeat of this project. The scorecard presentation is designed to show what we have achieved across key thematic areas, what challenges we are currently grappling with, and what the road ahead looks like. Therefore, it is a moment for stocktaking and for reaffirming our shared commitment to the success of the Ogoni clean-up project.

I am pleased to inform you that HYPREP has recorded commendable progress in the implementation of its core mandates in line with UNEP recommended actions and the directives in the official gazette establishing HYPREP. In the area of environmental remediation, more sites have been successfully remediated and certified, with several others currently at different stages of remediation. HYPREP has successfully achieved the certification and official close-out of fifty (50) remediated lots across seventeen (17) UNEP-assessed sites, under its Phase 1 Remediation of Simple Sites.

In addition to the certified closure of these 17 simple sites, HYPREP also secured NOSDRA certification and close-out for thirteen (13) Category N Sites. These were locations lacking sufficient data, which HYPREP

reinvestigated and found that natural attenuation processes have reduced the contamination to acceptable levels. Such sites do not require further remedial actions.

The clean-up of 1,700 ha of oiled shoreline is 53% completed. Currently, HYPREP is advancing the remediation of 39 Lots 1 across 17 medium-risk, complex sites covering 125.39 hectares of hydrocarbon-impacted land. This involves remediating contaminated soil and groundwater outside residential areas. HYPREP has launched the world's largest initiative to restore oil-degraded mangroves in Ogoniland. The pilot phase, covering 560 hectares, is 93% complete. Our systematic monitoring of the rehabilitated mangrove areas shows a gradual recovering of biodiversity. HYPREP is actively pursuing the designation of the Ogoni mangrove wetland as a Ramsar Site, a globally recognized status for wetlands of high significance. Therefore, the project is collaborating with relevant agencies, institutions and partners to achieve this important environmental milestone.

The Livelihood Restoration Programme continues to impact lives through targeted skills acquisition, economic empowerment initiatives, business support programmes, the award of scholarships, research support grants, internship opportunities, capacity-building workshops and direct jobs created for Ogoni youths and women. Interestingly, HYPREP, through its various projects and programmes have created over 7,000 direct employment opportunities for Ogoni youths and women across more than 100 project sites in the four Local Government

Areas of Ogoniland. These projects have also stimulated local businesses. The socio-economic study of Ogoniland is underway towards developing a blueprint for sustainable socio-economic development beyond the Ogoni clean-up efforts.

On the provision of potable water, HYPREP has successfully completed and operationalised ten water stations, and they are supplying potable water to 30 Ogoni communities. Construction of several potable water facilities is underway at varying stages of completion. To promote sustainability and community ownership, HYPREP has established Water Consumers Associations (WCA). These associations consist of respected community members who have been selected and trained to manage the water facilities after HYPREP's exit.

The public health interventions of HYPREP have enhanced healthcare infrastructure in Ogoniland by renovating relevant sections of the Bori, Nchia, Terabor General Hospitals, and Kpite Primary Health Care Centre and equipping them with state-of-the-art medical devices and solar power systems. To further improve healthcare delivery, HYPREP has designed and constructed a 43-bed Cottage Hospital in Buan community, which is 93% complete. Additionally, HYPREP is constructing a 100-bed Ogoni Specialist Hospital, which is 76% complete. The hospital will include an oncology department dedicated to cancer treatment and will serve not only Ogoniland but also neighboring communities and states. We have inaugurated a committee of seasoned health professionals to develop a framework that will ensure access and

sustainability of the specialist hospital. HYPREP has engaged the World Health Organization's International Agency for Cancer Research (IARC) to conduct a comprehensive health study on the Ogoni people. This study aims to assess the extent of hydrocarbon exposure and its possible links to disease patterns, in accordance with UNEP's recommendations.

HYPREP designed and initiated the ongoing construction of the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration (CEER), a key recommendation in the UNEP report on Ogoniland. I am pleased to inform you that the CEER is 85% complete and is expected to be inaugurated in the last quarter of this year. The framework for the sustainable operationalization of the CEER has been submitted by a top-notch Technical Planning Committee.

Efforts to eliminate oil theft and illegal artisanal refining along the Ogoni shoreline have been successful through security patrols, partnerships with former artisanal refiners through their umbrella body, the Ogoni Ex-Artisanal Refiners Forum, and sustained youth sensitization. These measures have improved the safety of facilities and installations in the area, reduced the threat of re-pollution, and reinforced campaigns to prevent unsustainable mangrove harvesting.

The Ogoni clean-up has gained international visibility, and we have raised the bar of the project's linkages and partnerships to drive cutting-edge research for development and sustainability. These include the ongoing research on artificial production and restocking of the West African bloody cockle, post-remediation soil fertility enhancement

study and the Growcoon research to end the use of plastic bags in mangrove nurseries. We continue to promote transparency and accountability through open and inclusive communication, various stakeholder engagements, and by establishing extra-regulatory transparency and accountability mechanisms such as the Milestone Evaluation Committee and the Technical Coordination Committee.

I am pleased to inform you that the driving force behind this momentum is the Renewed Hope National Agenda of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR, which prioritises the acceleration of the Ogoni clean-up. This bold policy direction has provided the needed political will, institutional backing, and operational synergy to push the HYPREP mandate forward. HYPREP is proud to be contributing meaningfully to this national objective, which not only speaks to environmental justice but is also a template for nation building and sustainable development.

Indeed, the Ogoni clean-up is a symbol of hope and healing. While we celebrate our milestones, we must also be candid about the challenges we face. Prominent among these are issues stemming from within the communities – targeted misinformation, chieftaincy tussles, communal land and boundary disputes, avoidable litigation that slow the pace of remediation execution at a few sites, and undue requests for public services not covered by HYPREP's mandate. These challenges, though complex, are surmountable, and with the continued cooperation of stakeholders, we continue to navigate and overcome them. We call on community leaders,

youth groups, women associations, civil society, and all relevant actors to continue to play their roles constructively.

It is only through inclusiveness, dialogue, and mutual respect that we can build a legacy of transformation. Your support remains indispensable to ensuring access to project sites, sustaining peace, and enhancing transparency and accountability in project delivery. Peacebuilding, I must stress, is not a side activity but a central mandate of HYPREP.

Peacebuilding interventions are being integrated more deliberately, recognising that without peace, development is hindered. At HYPREP, we believe that environmental restoration must go hand in hand with social healing. We are investing in community-based peacebuilding programmes and encouraging dialogue to address grievances, mediate disputes, and promote reconciliation. We are also working with local leaders to build mechanisms for conflict prevention

and early warning responses through capacity-building workshops on alternative dispute resolution and peacebuilding techniques.

The Ogoni community holds the key to HYPREP's success. Thus, ownership, cooperation, and vigilance by the people will ensure that these interventions are protected, maintained, and maximized for generations to come."

"Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth."

In This Issue

The July edition of the HYPREP Herald showcases major deliverables and on-going projects that touch on the lives and livelihood of the Ogoni people. The phase 1 shoreline clean-up of the creeks where eco-system goods and services that the littoral communities depend on for their source of livelihoods and income is fifty percent completed. In this issue, we bring you a detailed report with the necessary graphics and pictures to show the level of work done. The Project Coordination Office conducted a fish stock assessment to track improvement of biodiversity in rehabilitated mangrove areas in Bomu creek. In June, the world celebrated environment day and as a responsible organization saddled with the mandate of restoring the environment, the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) joined in marking the day. The colourful event to mark the day was held at the Bomu waterfront. Members of our environment clubs (Green Frontiers)

from select secondary schools in Ogoni were in attendance. The event organized by HYPREP and the other by the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) where HYPREP Project Coordinator presented a paper are both featured in this edition of the HYPREP Herald.

Stakeholders of the Ogoni clean-up project converged on the city of Port Harcourt as this administration clocked two years in office to be briefed on the success of the project in a midterm/scorecard presentation of his stewardship. The event attracted stakeholders across different strata of the Ogoni society – traditional rulers, the political class, the academia, women and youth groups and other stakeholders like industry players and civil society organizations. HYPREP has been able to check re-pollution through a robust engagement with ex-artisanal refiners who have demonstrated commitment to keep off illegal refining of crude oil. To deepen collaboration with the ex-artisanal refiners, HYPREP held a joint workshop with them to sensitise the youths of Ogoni on the dangers of illegal bunkering and refining.

The traditional institution in Ogoni is

more than ever determined to support HYPREP succeed in the delivery of its mandate – the remediation of oil impacted sites and restoration of livelihoods. The Stakeholders Engagement Unit of the project was at the palaces of first class chiefs in Ogoni to intimate them on the achievements of the project, where they unanimously pledged their support for the project.

Last month, we brought you the report on the inauguration of the Technical Planning Committee for the operationalization of the Ogoni Specialist Hospital. In this issue, HYPREP Herald talked with some members of the committee on what to expect from the committee regarding the delivery of their terms of reference. HYPREP is keen on ensuring that its water stations operate and deliver water to the specifications contained in the UNEP report. To this end the Project Coordination Office organized a training in water quality control for laboratory technicians at the different water stations in Ogoni.

The achievements of the Renewed Hope Agenda of President Ahmed Tinubu especially as regards the Ogoni clean-up project have

continued to attract applause from Ogonis at home and in diaspora and other stakeholders. The youths in a solidarity walk to HYPREP appreciated the President for the presidential pardon to Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight others and the national honours conferred on them. They equally passed a vote of confidence in HYPREP Project Coordinator, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey on his numerous

achievements in the last two years. Similarly, another group, the Ogoni Mothers, were at the Project Coordination Office on a solidarity visit to express their appreciation to the Project Coordinator, Prof. Zabbey for developing Ogoni.

The National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA) had a joint session with HYPREP on ways to improve the delivery of the Ogoni

clean-up project. We have a feature on the return of eco-system goods and services in the restored mangrove forest of Ogoni. Our mangrove and dishes corner is sustained as well as the poetry corner for your reading pleasure. We do hope that you will find this edition interesting and informative as always.

Project News

OVER 50% PHASE 1 SHORELINE CLEAN-UP DONE

The on-going shoreline clean-up by the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) in some littoral communities of Bomu, B-Dere, K-Dere, Goi and Kpor in Gokana Local Government Area is fifty percent completed. Of the 487 grids earmarked for clean-up, 249 grids have been successfully completed representing 51.1% of work done. HYPREP is implementing the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Report on Ogoni recommending the remediation of oil

impacted soils and shorelines that have crippled the livelihoods of local communities.

In cleaning the shorelines, a total of 1,083,622 litres of oily sludge and 2,284,671 kg of solid hydrocarbon waste have been recovered leading to the clean-up of over 741.07 hectares of oil impacted wetland.

In this special report prepared by Peter Lenu - the Technical Assistant to HYPREP Project Coordinator on shoreline clean-up, HYPREP Herald presents the graphic details of work done.

1. Summary of Work Progress

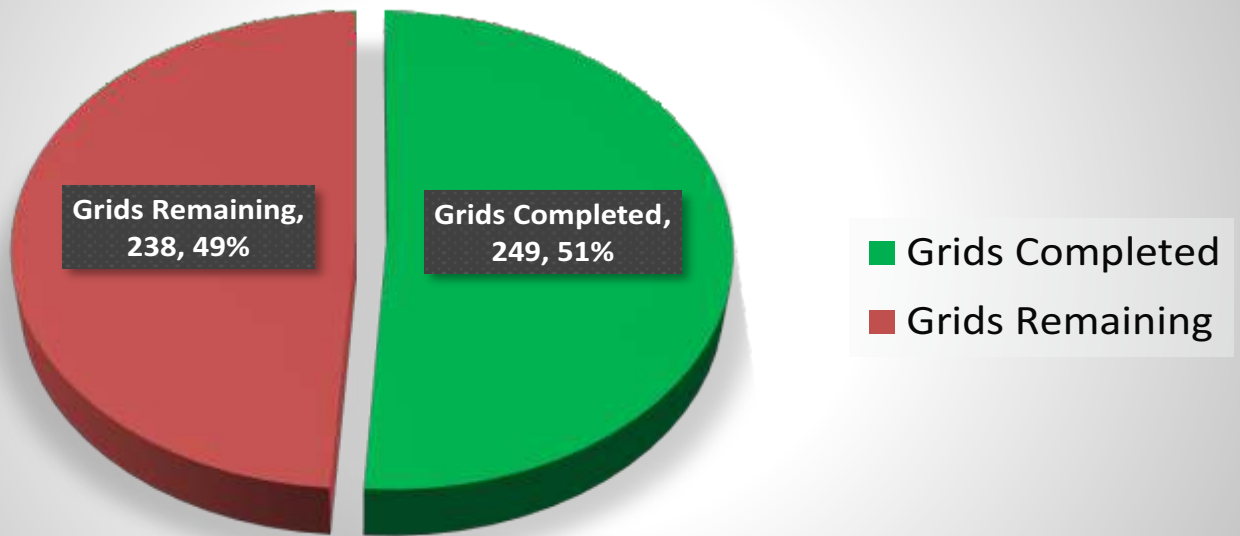
- 249 of 487 grids have been completed representing 51.1%
- 741.07 hectares of oil-impacted wetland has been cleaned in readiness of chemistry closeout sampling for mangrove planting
- 1,083,622 liters of Oily sludge and 2,284,671 kg of solid waste has been generated from cleanup activities.
- Internal chemistry verification sampling continues – 30 grids have been sampled
- 4 grids failed SCAT verification – to be revisited on work completion
- 18 other grids are ready for SCAT inspection.

2. Contractor Performance Stat

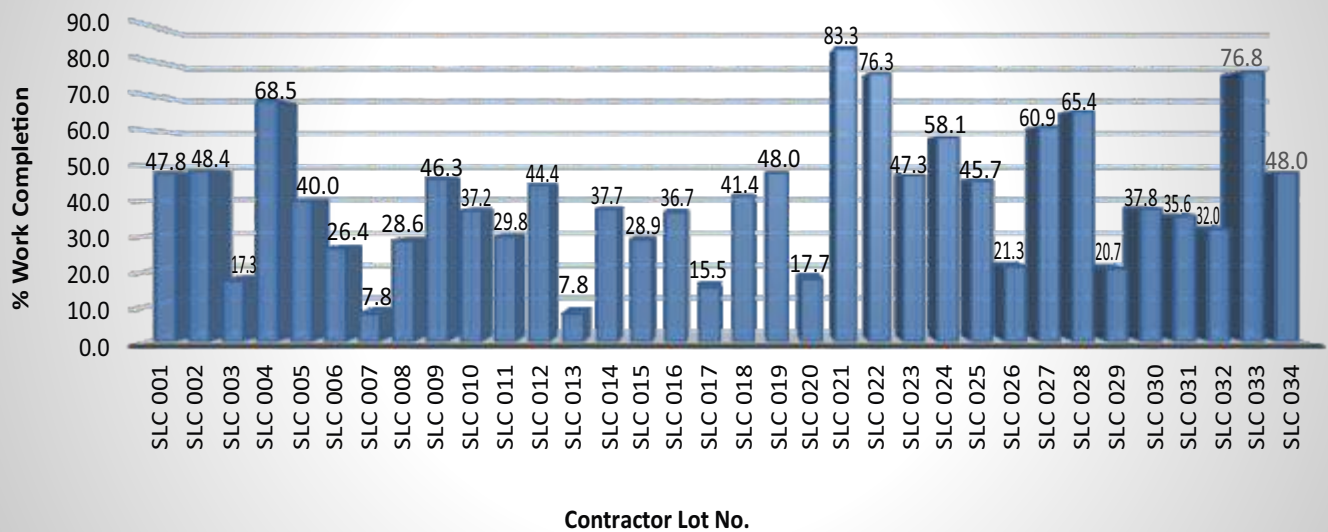
Project Performance Summary @ 16 June 2025							
Total Area for Flushing, Agitation and Nipa Removal (ha)	Area Completed (ha)	%_Area Completed	Grids Total	Grids Confirmed	%_Grid Confirmed	Grids SCAT-Ready	Grids Chemisty Verification
1747.6	741.07	42.4	487	249	51.1	18	30

Hydrocarbon Waste Generated (16 June, 2025)	
Oily Sludge (L)	Solid Waste (Kg)
1,083,622	2,285,671

Grid Completion



Contractor Performance



Sediment Flushing



Sediment Flushing, K-Dere

Contractor Performance Status – 16 June 2025

S/N	Project Title	Lot.No	Contractor	% Mobilization Salaries	Total Work Scope Area (ha)	Volume(Cubic Meter) Artisanal Refinery	Area Completed (ha)	Total NO Grids	Grids Completed	% Completed Area (ha)	% Completed Area 75% Weighted	% Completed Grids	% Total Work Completion	Total Manhour
				25%							75%		100%	
1	Shoreline Clean-up in B/Dere zone 1	SLC 001	Geoquest Int, Services Ltd	11.11	16.5	96,800	8,064,6937	6	4	48.88	36.66	66.67	47.76	
2	Shoreline Clean-up in B/Dere zone 3	SLC 002	Welltime Limited	9.44	26.0	25,080	11,783,715	8	5	45.32	33.99	62.50	43.43	
3	Shoreline Clean-up in B/Dere zone 4	SLC 003	Fortified City Technologies Nig Ltd	9.44	73.6	2,640	7,700,2224	29	4	10.46	7.85	13.79	17.29	
4	Shoreline Clean-up in B/Dere zone 5	SLC 004	Dinetuks Nigeria Limited with Lamor Cooperation	10.00	23.0	39,600	17,951,715	8	7	78.05	58.54	87.50	68.53	25600
5	Shoreline Clean-up in B/Dere zone 6	SLC 005	Ekham Ventures Ltd	11.11	43.3	14,520	16,697,744	13	6	38.56	28.92	46.15	40.03	
6	Shoreline Clean-up in B/Dere zone 7	SLC 006	Rivdel Engineering Consultancy Limited	9.44	33.7	22,440	7,618,3603	15	3	22.61	16.95	20.00	26.39	
7	Shoreline Clean-up in B/Dere zone 8	SLC 007	Navante Oil and Gas Company Limited	7.78	19.3	5,280	0	8	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.78	
8	Shoreline Clean-up in B/Dere zone 9	SLC 008	Yok Daniel Nigeria Limited	11.11	26.7	23,760	6,225,2615	10	4	23.32	17.49	40.00	28.59	
9	Shoreline Clean-up in K/Dere zone 1	SLC 009	Sures Global Resources Nig Ltd	7.78	23.0	0	11,804,45	9	4	51.32	38.49	44.44	46.27	
10	Shoreline Clean-up in K/Dere zone 2	SLC 010	MUS Engineering Consults Limited	8.89	38.8	3,960	14,652,62	28	9	37.76	28.32	32.14	37.21	
11	Shoreline Clean-up in K/Dere zone 3	SLC 011	Geo-Kooy Environmental Services	7.78	33.8	21,120	9,939,472	14	4	29.41	22.06	28.57	29.83	
12	Shoreline Clean-up in K/Dere zone 4	SLC 012	ZGM Investment Group of Companies Ltd	7.22	29.4	10,560	14,571,55	20	6	49.56	37.17	30.00	44.39	
13	Shoreline Clean-up in K/Dere zone 5	SLC 013	Cagewox Dot Net Limited	7.78	40.5	80,520	0	15	4	0.00	0.00	26.67	7.78	
14	Shoreline Clean-up in K/Dere zone 6	SLC 014	DLK Oil & Gas Environmental Services Ltd	8.33	61.3	3,960	24,035,43	20	7	39.21	29.41	35.00	37.74	
15	Shoreline Clean-up in K/Dere zone 7	SLC 015	Bussdor & Company Limited	7.22	9.2	50,160	2,662,1982	7	3	28.94	21.70	42.86	28.92	
16	Shoreline Clean-up in K/Dere zone 8	SLC 016	Galembic Int'l Ltd	7.78	50.7	36,960	19,563,27	17	7	38.59	28.94	41.18	36.71	
17	Shoreline Clean-up in K/Dere zone 9	SLC 017	Carlton Concept Projects Ltd	7.78	35.1	0	1,358,3599	11	4	3.87	2.90	36.36	10.68	

Contractor Performance Status – 16 June 2025

18	Shoreline Clean-up in K/Dere zone 10	SLC 018	Amazing Environmental Solution Int'l Limited	7.78	51.9	0	23,237.29	13	4	44.77	33.58	30.77	41.35
19	Shoreline Clean-up in K/Dere zone 11	SLC 019	Aniset Integrated Services with Shiwinis Integrated Services	7.78	37.0	0	19,867.61	14	7	53.70	40.27	50.00	48.05
20	Shoreline Clean-up in Kpor zone 1	SLC 020	Seroek Energy Services and Bessiyi Nigeria Ltd	7.22	14.3	18,700	2,005,522	7	2	14.02	10.52	28.57	17.74
21	Shoreline Clean-up in Kpor zone 2	SLC 021	Chavyn Nigeria Limited	9.44	27.9	4,640	27.48	6	6	98.49	73.87	100.00	83.31
22	Shoreline Clean-up in Kpor zone 3	SLC 022	Wiz China World Engineering Ltd	8.33	20.6	20,900	12,506,841	6	6	60.71	45.53	100.00	53.86
23	Shoreline Clean-up in Bomu zone 1A	SLC 023	Iris Eagle Ltd	8.89	99.6	0	47,443,09	21	17	47.63	35.73	80.95	44.61
24	Shoreline Clean-up in Bomu zone 1B	SLC 024	Transcend Construction Limited	10.55	79.9	9,900	50,673,263	13	12	63.42	47.57	92.31	58.12
25	Shoreline Clean-up in Bomu zone 2A	SLC 025	Trutech Engineering Consultant Services Ltd	11.11	103.5	0	47,687,401	28	12	46.07	34.56	42.86	45.66
26	Shoreline Clean-up in Bomu zone 2B	SLC 026	Abduganas Limited	11.66	62.2	3,850	8,036,051.5	10	8	12.92	9.69	80.00	21.35
27	Shoreline Clean-up in Bomu zone 3A	SLC 027	Step Engineering Services Ltd in partnership with Oakridge Environmental Engineering Inc	10.00	48.7	35,200	33,083,84	11	10	67.93	50.95	90.91	60.95
28	Shoreline Clean-up in Bomu zone 3B	SLC 028	Sikodris Nigeria Limited in Partnership with Ken Vic Moore Biz Ventures Nig Limited	11.11	183.8	82,280	125,772.5	30	27	68.43	51.32	90.00	62.43
29	Shoreline Clean-up in Bomu zone 4A	SLC 029	Camyota Limited in partnership with Ksplan Consult Limited	10.00	78.8	9,900	11,256,02	15	7	14.28	10.71	46.67	20.71
30	Shoreline Clean-up in Bomu zone 4B	SLC 030	Ieren Services Limited	11.11	94.8	9,900	29,178,494	23	12	30.78	23.08	52.17	34.19
31	Shoreline Clean-up in Bomu zone 5A	SLC 031	Brant Technologies Limited	11.11	134.2	33,000	38,916,869	23	16	29.00	21.75	69.57	32.85
32	Shoreline Clean-up in Bomu zone 5B	SLC 032	Gbereogoni Oil and Gas Limited	11.66	69.3	0	18,759,44	13	11	27.07	20.30	84.62	31.96
33	Shoreline Clean-up in Goi zone 1	SLC 033	Prime Logistic Integrated Network Ltd	10.55	28.3	36,300	18,798.8	7	7	66.43	49.82	100.00	60.37
34	Shoreline Clean-up in Goi zone 2	SLC 034	TMCH Group Limited	8.89	28.9	11,000	15,077.67	9	4	52.17	39.13	44.44	48.01
Total				9,326	1747.6		704.41	487	249	40,307.3	30,230.4	51,129,634.5	39,556,18
													84736

4. Accomplishments and Plans

- SCAT-Verification activities continued within the past weeks
- Document review of Remediation Action Plan for Artisanal Refinery areas are on-going.
- NOSDRA Compliance Monitoring of contractors is on going
- Continuous contractor supervision and monitoring.

SHORELINE CLEANUP ACTIVITIES IN PICTURES



Sediment Flushing



Sediment Flushing, K-Dere



Sediment Flushing / Booming, K-Dere



Nipa Palm Removal, K-Dere

FISH STOCK STUDY IN OGO NI INDICATES POSITIVE SIGNS OF ECOSYSTEM GOODS AND SERVICES RECOVERY

The Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Professor Nenibarini Zabbey has led a second phase of Fish Stock Assessment to track improvement of biodiversity in rehabilitated mangrove areas in the Bomu creek, Ogoniland. The study will correlate the relationship between mangrove restoration and fish stock improvement. In partnership with local fishermen and researchers from the Fisheries Department of the University of Port Harcourt, the study employs fish fencing of three contiguous tidal flats that were studied prior to the ongoing pilot mangrove restoration in the Bomu Creek.

Reassessing the fish stock of the area one year after restorative planting of mangrove seedlings on the tidal flats

would aid in quantifying fish recovery in the area. The first phase of the study was carried out between January and March 2024, using the same study stations and methods. This was done to establish a baseline before HYPREP started the shoreline cleanup and mangrove rehabilitation in the areas. <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/18tsQzLAhh/>

The results shall be comparatively analysed after repeating the sampling in four months. However, some of the preliminary observations include the sighting of mudskippers – a bottom finfish with high sensitivity to hydrocarbon pollution, which was not reported during the pre-restoration assessment. There were also notable patches of periwinkle on the mudflats, and a relatively increase in mullet

landing. In line with HYPREP's data transparency policy, we shall continue to update stakeholders on the gradual return of ecosystem goods and services to the Ogoni creeks, as the shoreline clean-up and mangrove restoration efforts progress.

Currently, the first phase of the pilot restorative mangrove planting in Bomu is at 93% completion, while phase 1 clean-up of oil-impacted shoreline across five Ogoni coastal communities has reached 51.1% completion. Removing trapped oil from the shoreline sediment and restorative planting of mangroves will significantly improve the environmental conditions of the Ogoni creeks, provide suitable feeding and breeding grounds for commercially important fish species. Mangroves sequester huge amount of



Fish Stock Assessment by HYPREP in Mangrove Rehabilitated Bomu Creek

terrestrial-derived carbons, contribute organic matter and nutrients, maintain water quality, protect the shorelines

against erosion and foster the growth of micro and macrofauna that form the base of the aquatic food chain that

support fish productivity.

BEATING PLASTIC POLLUTION: HYPREP ADVOCATES NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

- As Environment Group Honours Prof. Zabbey with Excellence Award

The 2025 World Environment Day was marked with spectacular events by the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) at the Bomu creeks where HYPREP is carrying out shoreline clean-up and mangrove restoration.

The Theme of this year's celebration is **Beat Plastic Pollution** with a focus on ending plastic effluence. The theme aligns with the United Nations Environment Programme's campaign to adopt and support impactful

solutions to address the plastic pollution crisis.

The Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project, HYPREP, in its efforts to de-escalate the pollution crisis, unveiled strategic interventions, aimed at achieving environmental sustainability through nature-based solutions and improved citizen participation in environmental protection initiatives.

At its mangrove restoration site in Bomu community, HYPREP engaged the Green Frontiers (members of its

environment clubs in select secondary schools in Ogoni) and fisher folks in its campaign to enlighten the locals on practical actions in combating plastic waste in the creeks and water ways to conserving aquatic ecosystems and livelihoods.

Addressing the fisher folks and Green Frontiers at the event, the Project Coordinator, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey, urged them to desist from polluting the environment with plastics, and to join the campaign to ensure compliance with existing regulations and efforts to



Participants at HYPREP 2025 World Environment Day Celebration

reduce use of single-use plastics.

Prof. Zabbey stated that the collaborative effort underscores HYPREP's commitment to promoting sustainable environmental practices and highlights the importance of citizens' participation in achieving significant change in the campaign against plastic pollution.

While appealing to the Green Frontiers and other participants to take the campaign to the grassroots, the Project Coordinator distributed

multiple-use water bottles to them to depreciate the damage caused to the creeks and waterways by the use and careless disposal of single-use plastics.

The Paramount Ruler of Bomu community, HRH, Chief Benedict Vurasi Tenalo lauded HYPREP on the initiative aimed at keeping the environment safe and healthy.

He assured the Project Coordinator that he would intensify the sensitization of his community and

urged HYPREP to sustain the campaign for total ecological recovery and sustainable livelihoods for the people.

The Project Coordinator afterwards joined top officials of the Niger Delta Development Commission, NDDC at another event held at the commission's Headquarters in Port Harcourt to mark the environment day with a tree planting exercise.

In his technical paper presentation at the event, Prof. Zabbey enumerated the damage and consequences of continued use of plastics, calling on all participants and stakeholders to join the campaign to end plastic pollution. He highlighted the benefits of community-based plastics and hydrocarbon pollution management models, saying HYPREP's innovative solution and introduction of biodegradable material called 'Growcoon,' for nursery and reliance on multiple-use plastic water bottles is aimed at beating plastic pollution.



Prof. Zabbey Plants Tree at 2025 World Environment Day Celebration

According to him, all hands must be on deck, and in managing waste, people must think of prevention first, adding that despite one's social status, one should take actions to save the environment.

Prof. Zabbey restated HYPREP's commitment to providing sustainable alternative means of livelihood to the

people and appealed to them to stay off acts that re-pollute the environment.

The HYPREP Project Coordinator, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey was given an award of excellence by an eco-friendly group, Scopex Nigeria Limited recognizing him as a Niger Delta Environment Protection Champion.

The group said Prof. Zabbey has distinguished himself as a true environment champion, noting that his sustained advocacy, expertise and determination to achieve safe, clean and productive environment has paid off for the people of the Niger Delta.

STAKEHOLDERS EXPRESS SATISFACTION WITH HYPREP'S PERFORMANCE

- As Prof. Zabbey Presents Mid-Term Scorecard

It was an exciting moment as high-profile stakeholders of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) took turns to express their contentment with the giant strides of the Project, particularly, within the past two years. Speaking at the Mid-Term Stakeholders Engagement and Scorecard Presentation held in Port Harcourt, the member representing Khana/Gokana Federal Constituency in the House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Dumnamene Dekor applauded the management and staff of HYPREP for the successes made over the years, especially under the current Project Coordinator, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey. Rt. Hon. Dekor said HYPREP is leading the way with positive steps, expressing optimism that the team will continue to do well in delivering on the mandate of the project. He stated that to ensure sustainability and institutionalization of the project, he is sponsoring a bill in the National Assembly and that there is a discussion with President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to make it an Executive Bill for easy passage. He also called for more funding for the Project, considering the enormous task and high expectations of the project by the communities.



Participants at HYPREP Stakeholders Engagement/Midterm Scorecard Presentation

On his part, the President of KAGOTE, Rt. Hon. Emmanuel Deeyah expressed confidence in the Project Coordinator, Prof. Zabbey to continue to make Ogoni people proud, and thanked President Tinubu for listening to the people on the appointment of Prof. Zabbey as Project Coordinator. "The Project Coordinator is one of our best, academically. In response to people, he listens to good advice," he said, calling for collective support for the Project Coordinator, and added his voice to the call for release of more funds for the project.

While commending Prof. Zabbey on a job well done in two years, Rt. Hon. Deeyah noted that the Ogoni Clean-up project must not fail, saying if it works

here, it will work in other places.

Also, the King of Eleme, HRM, King (Dr.) Philip Osaro Obele applauded Prof. Zabbey for the efficient coordination of the project and urged him not to fail in meeting the expectations of the people and the dreams of Ogoni fallen heroes.

King Obele paid special tributes to Ogoni fallen heroes and assured of the continuous support of traditional rulers, who he stressed, are desirous to see the Project succeed.

Similarly, the Gbenemene of Tai Kingdom, HRM, King Samuel Nnee and the Paramount ruler of Barako community, HRH, Chief Kadilo Kabari, described the Project Coordinator as a performer and assured him of their unwavering



Participants at HYPREP Stakeholders Engagement/Midterm Scorecard Presentation

support. Chief Kabari noted that his community has benefited from the HYPREP water project.

On his part, Nigeria's former Ambassador to The Netherlands, Amb. Oji Ngofa said HYPREP has become like government of an anticipated Ogoni State, saying he was attending HYPREP event for the first time because of the achievements Prof. Zabbey.

Amb. Ngofa thanked the Project Coordinator for giving a human face to the project, and appealed to him to continue with stakeholders' engagement, while calling on the government to ensure sustainability of the Project.

Prof. Barineme Fakae in his speech, congratulated the Project Coordinator and the entire HYPREP team on what he described as 'a touch of excellence' in the implementation of the programmes of the project.

The former Vice Chancellor of the Rivers State University called for the

full implementation of the Technical Report on the operationalization of the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration.

Speaking on behalf of Ogoni women, Chief Pricilia Vikue said the women are happy with the Project Coordinator for the satisfactory work he is doing and urged him not to be swayed by detractors.

In his presentation, the Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey said the event was not only an opportunity to reflect on the journey thus far, but a strategic platform to foster greater collaboration as the project forges ahead with the task of remediating oil-impacted sites and restoring livelihoods in Ogoni.

The Project Coordinator, who conveyed the felicitation of the Honourable Minister of Environment, Balarabe Abbas Lawal, said he believes that Ogoni community holds the key to HYPREP's success, noting

that ownership, cooperation, and vigilance by the people will ensure that the interventionist projects of HYPREP are protected, maintained, and maximized for generations to come.

He further hinted that the midterm engagement was important because it allowed HYPREP to present tangible evidence of progress in the Ogoni clean-up effort, reinforces accountability, deepens transparency, and most importantly, enables HYPREP to interact directly with the communities and stakeholders, who are the heartbeat of the project.

Prof. Zabbey stated that the scorecard presentation was designed to show what HYPREP has achieved across key thematic areas, what challenges it is currently grappling with, and what the road ahead looks like. "Therefore, it is a moment for stocktaking and for reaffirming our shared commitment to the success of the Ogoni cleanup project", he said.

He acknowledged that the driving force behind the success of the Project is the Renewed Hope Agenda of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR,

which prioritizes the acceleration of the Ogoni cleanup project, adding that the bold policy direction has provided the needed political will, institutional

backing, and operational synergy to push the HYPREP mandate forward.

HYPREP PLANS SPECIALISED TRAINING FOR EX-ARTISANAL REFINERS

The Management of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) has said it is planning specialized training for ex-artisanal refiners to give them sustainable livelihood as well as take them away from illegal refining of crude oil considering the hazards it poses to the environment and human lives.

Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey made this known at a workshop organized to sensitize members of the Ogoni Ex-Artisanal Refiners Forum on the dangers of illegal oil bunkering and refining.

The HYPREP Project Coordinator who was represented by the Director, Technical Services, HYPREP, Prof. Paul Aguiyi stated that the planned training will redirect their energies into a more productive and safer

venture.

“We are encouraging them to keep doing what they are currently doing, and we would engage them and as their chairman mentioned we made a commitment to give them specialized trainings to make sure they are completely off artisanal refining. They play a critical role in our environmental process. Our restoration efforts.”

He observed that the promise made by the ex-artisanal refiners to keep off illegal oil refining is paying off as there is no more visible soot in the atmosphere which was the case when they were into the obnoxious activity.

“As we discuss with ex-artisanal refiners, the intent is to move them away from their previous activities and guide them towards a proper cause for livelihood changes. That is

basically why we have this sensitization workshop. They have willingly on their own given up artisanal refining by choice and we are willing to work with them to ensure that there is no more artisanal refining in our area and everywhere in Ogoniland. There is hardly any place you can run into active artisanal refining site, and we no longer have soot as we used to know in the past.”

Facilitator of the Ogoni Ex-Artisanal Refiners Forum, Dr. Elvis Ikoma appreciated the management of HYPREP for supporting the group in their drive to sensitize the youths of Ogoni to stay away from artisanal refining of crude oil and stated that the campaign has helped in the reduction of pollution and restoration of the environment.

“We have been doing sensitization.



Officials of Ogoni Ex-Artisanal Refiners Forum with Staff of HYPREP

This is about the 5th episode so to speak, and it is important that we play this role. Most of the people here were active participants in artisanal refining activity. It is important we collaborate with HYPREP on the important task of cleaning the environment to ensure that actions that can cause re-pollution do not continue and I am happy today that so far, we have recorded successes in the restoration of the environment. The periwinkles are coming back to the shoreline, the mangroves are growing, it means that activities of pollution are also reducing.”

Also, a member of the Central Representative Advisory Council of HYPREP, Engr. Loveday Nwafor is pleased with the result being witnessed following the stoppage to illegal bunkering in Ogoni, saying that it has saved the communities from breathing polluted air.

“I want to congratulate HYPREP on having this as part of their programme to educate our people on the need to stop oil bunkering because of the environmental hazards. There was a time when the hazard was so much that the soot was much that you cannot sleep. The soot from such pollution

will get into your nose, choke you up, cover our buildings, all over our environment but as a result of this awareness, I think things are being reduced to some reasonable extent.”

Engr. Nwafor commended HYPREP on the water projects it has so far commissioned in Eleme as it has given the communities access to potable water as against the contaminated water they drank in the past and called for the speedy completion of the remaining water projects under construction.

“I want to thank HYPREP that has started some water projects in Eleme Kingdom, those water projects have to be completed and completed well so that it will reduce the rate of death in our environment caused by high level of water pollution and water borne diseases.”

A member of the civil society present at the workshop, Dr. Tammy Cokey appealed to the ex-artisanal refiners to resist the temptation of going back to illegal refining of crude oil as that will undo the gains of the clean-up so far.

“We want to commend HYPREP on what they have done thus so far and this even shows that the clean-up is

working and one thing we know, and we are certain is that the communities will be restored soon, and so we want to appeal to you that you be patient because what we are dealing with is oil pollution. So, if you go back to your business of artisanal refining then there will be re-pollution.”

Chairman of the Ogoni Ex-Artisanal Refiners Forum, Mr. Humphery Domka appreciated HYPREP for partnering them in the campaign to end artisanal refining and promised that members of the group will unite against pipeline vandalism in Ogoni to keep the area free of oil pollution.

Mr. Domka thanked the management of HYPREP for the specialized training it is planning for them and every other support it has given the group and continues to give them in an effort to make Ogoni clean and green again.

The highlight of the sensitization was a lecture, 'Clean-up: Gains, Sustainability and Prosperity of Ogoniland' jointly presented by Prof. Dinebari Badey and Prof. Lesi Kaegon.

OGONI CLEAN-UP: MONARCH HAILS HYPREP IMPLEMENTATION MODEL

- Urges Sustained Support for Project

The Gbenemene of Tai Kingdom, His Royal Majesty, King Samuel Nnee has commended the Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey on being thorough, practical and transparent in the implementation of the mandate of HYPREP. King Nnee gave the commendation

when a team of HYPREP officials paid a courtesy visit to his palace in Kpitem community as part of HYPREP's engagement with critical stakeholders of the project.

The Tai Monarch expressed contentment with the manner the HYPREP Project Coordinator has piloted the affairs of the project and his bravery in surmounting the several challenges that HYPREP has

encountered in the field.

King Nnee said he will always be favourably disposed to welcoming HYPREP to Tai because HYPREP sited the magnificent Ogoni Specialist Hospital in the area and has also included the youth and women of Tai in the livelihood and other human capacity development programmes of the Project.

The Royal Father said HYPREP

represents Ogoni being an outcome of the Ogoni struggle and called on the people of Ogoni to do everything possible to sustain their support for the Project, appealing to the Coordinator not to be swayed by the activities of detractors, but to ensure all gray areas are addressed intentionally.

“HYPERP will continue to enjoy our support, peaceful and enabling environment in Tai because we know that HYPERP is working. No organization is perfect, but HYPERP is doing good. If HYPERP succeeds, the Ogoni people would have succeeded. So, we must not fail.

As representative of Tai people, I'm fine with what you are doing. The Ogoni Specialist Hospital is important to us, as the only federal presence in the area. This is why we are grateful to HYPERP. We hope that the water facilities in the various communities will permanently solve our quest for drinking water. History will not forget the good deeds of the Project Coordinator, Prof. Zabbey.”

Head, Stakeholders Engagement Unit of HYPERP, Mr. Richard Nkpe, told the King and members of his Council that the Project Coordinator recognizes their unwavering support for HYPERP, particularly, the peaceful atmosphere and the cordial



Officials of HYPERP with HRM Samuel Nnee and His Council of Chiefs

relationship between community workers, contractors and officials of HYPERP at the various project sites in Tai.

He thanked the King for his faith in the Project, assuring him that HYPERP will drive every contractor to deliver on their contract and called for feedback, continued collaboration and synergy between the people and HYPERP.

...King Baridam Assures HYPERP of Traditional Rulers' Support

Similarly, the HYPERP team was also at the palace of the Gbenemene of Bangha, HRM King Suanu T. Y. Baridam who assured the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPERP) of the total support of Ogoni traditional rulers for the clean-up project.

The King thanked the HYPERP officials for the honour done him, and commended the Project Coordinator, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey on the success made within two years of his being in the saddle of the Project.

He said, he has no doubt that the Project Coordinator will continue to make Ogoni proud with his wealth of experience and commitment to duty, saying “it is our duty as traditional rulers to defend the Project, and the people should bear with us.”

While appealing to HYPERP to ensure all Ogoni communities benefit from its projects and programmes, particularly, water, power and livelihoods programmes, the traditional ruler asked that these key projects be fast-tracked for them to serve the people as soon as possible.

He particularly commended Prof. Zabbey and the HYPERP management on the progress of the mangrove restoration project in Ogoni and passionately appealed that women should be deliberately included in the operations of HYPERP.

King Baridam noted that HYPERP has come to stay, to develop Ogoni, based on its mandate, and that the people should continue to own the project by protecting the facilities built in their communities and domains.



Officials of HYPERP with HRM Suanu Baridam and His Council of Chiefs

Leader of the HYPREP team and Head, Stakeholders Engagement Unit, Richard Nkpe commended King Baridam on the peaceful environment and support HYPREP has enjoyed working in his territory.

Mr. Nkpe said the purpose of the visit was to say 'thank you' to the King for his support, advice and peaceful deposition towards the Project. He enumerated on-going projects of HYPREP in Ogoni to include land remediation and shoreline clean-up, mangrove restoration, construction of Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration (CEER),

the Ogoni Specialist Hospital, the Buan Cottage Hospital, the Ogoni Power Project, scholarships, livelihood initiatives and other human capacity building programmes.

He observed that these achievements could not have been possible without the support of the King and other members of his committee, assuring that HYPREP is poised to do more with the support of key stakeholders, particularly, the traditional institution in Ogoni.

“HYPREP is making efforts assiduously to have landmark presence in Bangha, even as we ask for more of

your support. Our ears are open for advice and feedback, because HYPREP is bound to deliver on its mandate,” Nkpe stressed.

The HYPREP delegation as well visited the palace of the King of Eleme Kingdom, His Royal Majesty, Emere Dr. Philip Obele, Oneh Eh Eleme XI.

The Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project has made it a point of duty to interface with key stakeholders of the Ogoni clean-up project to both brief them on its projects and programmes and to seek their buy in to accelerate the speed of implementation.

TPC-OSH INAUGURATION CONFIRMS HYPREP'S COMMITMENT TO ACHIEVING OBJECTIVES

- Fmr. MOSOP President

The former President of the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People, MOSOP, Mr. Legborsi Saro-Pyagbara has described the inauguration of the Technical Planning Committee on the Ogoni Specialist Hospital (TPC-OSH) as a confirmation of commitment by the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project, HYPREP to achieving its mandate by addressing Ogoni health and environmental challenges.

The former MOSOP President stated this at the Project Office of HYPREP in Port Harcourt during the inauguration of the committee.

Mr. Pyagbara who is currently the Executive Director of the African Indigenous Foundation and Sustainable Development (AIFES), and Convenor, Ogoni Democratic Forum (ODF), also serves on the TPC-OSH, representing the communities.

According to him, “the good days are ahead of us, and we must ensure we get things right. HYPREP has truly

demonstrated that they are poised to better the lot of the Ogoni people, and we must support the project to succeed. The Project Coordinator, Prof. Zabbey, is focused and he is a round peg in a round hole. The communities will encourage him by ensuring peace in the area and own up the project”, he said.

The Medical Director and Chief Executive Officer of Lifeforte Hospital, Dr. Tombari Gbeneol, said it's a privilege to be invited to work with other professionals to serve the Ogoni people and others, who will also benefit from the services of the hospital, assuring that the same way he contributed to the success of previous public assignments, he will bring his wealth of experience to bear on the present assignment.

Dr. Gbeneol commended HYPREP on putting together such an array of experienced professionals with good track records in both private and public health services.

Similarly, another member of the

committee, Dr. Richard Okoye, welcomed the setting up of the committee by HYPREP, and expressed satisfaction with the caliber of people given the task of developing an operational model for the hospital to ensure efficiency, high-quality healthcare, and equitable access to services by the Ogoni people and the broader public.

He said as long-time private operators of successful medical facilities in the country, he and other reputable professionals on the Technical Committee will propose a long-term financial model and funding strategy for the hospital, including government funding, donor support, and public-private partnerships, as required.

Dr. Okoye who is the Chief Executive Officer of *Save a Life Hospital*, said with the HYPREP health initiative, Ogoni will become a centre of medical tourism and called for the sustainability of the project.

POTABLE WATER: HYPREP TRAINS LAB TECHNICIANS TO STREAMLINE QUALITY

To ensure that the people of Ogoni get the right and uniform quality of water, the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) has organized a training for laboratory technicians working in all the HYPREP water stations in Ogoni.

At the training held in Port Harcourt, the Director, Technical Services, HYPREP, Prof. Paul-Damian Aguiyi explained to participants the purpose of the training programme and tasked them on using it to sharpen their skills for better performance in the delivery of their services to the people of Ogoni.

“The essence of this training workshop I want to re-emphasize is for us to be sure that the people who operate the treatment plants in our water facilities know what to do and do the right thing all the time. So, we are taking extra pain to train you in the laboratory practices that you will

subject the water you give our people to, and our expectation is that you will need to understand this and when you do, make sure we are giving our people quality water. We want to be sure that while you are doing your work you ensure that the quality of water we give to our people meets international standards, meets WHO drinking water standards, meets Nigerian drinking water standards and so we feel that a key component of it is the laboratory management where you will taste the water before and after dosage and that would guide what you dose and the quantity.

Make sure that our people get the right quality water to drink and in doing so ensure that they are healthy because if you drink clean good quality water you are most likely not to be exposed to waterborne diseases and so we want you to pay attention.”

Prof. Aguiyi challenged the laboratory technicians to take whatever they are

to be taught seriously and put them to good use in the overall interest of the population that will consume the water.

“Every learning opportunity is an advantage for you to learn something and move on with it. And I keep telling people whether HYPREP or any organization is paying for what you have learnt, that what you have learnt is your own and that nobody can take it away from you but it is the use to which you apply what you have learnt that would help us guide what we do and in this case be sure that our people have good quality drinking water. So, I thank you all for coming and I expect that you get the best and be rest assured that the people training you would be able to train you very well and you should be able to learn some new things on your own.

If at any point in time you do your test in your facilities and you see that the water doesn't meet standard



HYPREP Officials with the Laboratory Technicians during their Training in Water Quality Control

requirements, raise a flag because we are primarily concerned about the quality of water we give to our people and we don't want to alter it. We want to make sure we keep giving them good quality drinking water.”

Head, Potable Water, HYPREP, Mr. Lucky Ikue who echoed the views of the Director, Technical Services harped on the need for uniformity in the quality of water coming out of the tanks in HYPREP water stations across Ogoni.

“I just want to buttress the points that the Director, Technical Services has raised as to why we are organizing this training for you. Firstly, it is to ascertain and ensure what we are giving to Ogoni people is of WHO standards. Secondly it is to operate according to the work plan and thirdly it is for standardization. We wouldn't want a process where the water quality in Bomu is different from that in Beere. We want to standardize, put all of you through to the same standard. So, I want to encourage you all to take the training seriously and to sure that we have value for the money the project has put into this training.”

The trainer, Prof. Godwin Udom cautioned the laboratory technicians against using physical observation to judge the quality of water they give out but should always subject it to laboratory tests.

“If you drink water of poor-quality, you are likely to suffer from waterborne diseases, cholera, typhoid and all. So, it is always very important, and how do we know the quality of water? It is through analysis. You can't just look at the water and say this one is good and that one is bad. We go through analysis and the analysis - the sampling techniques, analytical methods, the equipment that we use

must be standard otherwise it will be like computer - garbage in, garbage out.”

The Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project has provided

potable water in several communities across the four Local Government Areas of Ogoni and additional contracts are on-going to give more communities access to potable water.

HYPREP HAS REKINDLED OUR HOPE – Ogoni Youths, Others

- Applaud Presidential Pardon, Nat'l Honour for Ogoni Heroes

Ogoni youths at home and in diaspora alongside members of some community-based organizations have unequivocally expressed their endorsement for the operations of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project, saying the Project has brought renewed hope to the people of Ogoni.

The groups, during a march along the popular Ken Saro-Wiwa Road in Port Harcourt, the Rivers State Capital, also made known their approval of the granting of presidential pardon and national honours to Ogoni heroes who made huge sacrifices for the enthronement of Nigerian democracy and establishment of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP).

The youths displayed several placards bearing the pictures of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, Honourable Minister of Environment, Balarabe Abbas Lawal, National Security Adviser, Mallam Nuhu Ribadu, Ogoni renowned Environmental Rights Activist, Ken Saro-Wiwa, the Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey, and former MOSOP President, Ledum Mitee.

At the HYPREP Head Office, along Ken Saro-Wiwa road, where the solidarity march terminated, the groups, through their respective leaders, articulated their resolutions and gratitude to the President for what

they described as his courage to correct the wrong done in the past by the then regime of General Sani Abacha by granting Presidential Pardon to the Ogoni heroes and conferring National Honours on them. The slain heroes include, Ken Saro-Wiwa (CON), Saturday Dobee (OON), Barinem Kiobel (OON), Paul Levura (OON), Nordu Eawo (OON), Baribor Bera (OON), Daniel Gbokoo (OON), Felix Nuata (OON), John Kpuine (OON), and Ledum Mitee (CON) who escaped the hangman noose.

Speaking for the Ogonis in diaspora, Dr. Terry Bagia, emphasized that President Tinubu has shown that he truly loves the people of Ogoni, and the Ogoni people are grateful to him for the historic and much expected presidential pardon, which has brought justice to the heroes.

Dr. Bagia explained that the march was to publicly tell the world that the Ogoni Youths and all other groups are happy with the President and will continue to support him.

Also speaking, Ledogo Amaibu, representing Ogoni Joint Representative Youth Council, commended the role of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project, through the Honourable Minister of Environment, Balarabe Abbas Lawal, in bringing development by empowering the

youths. “We acknowledge the improvement in livelihoods, ongoing remediation, Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration, Ogoni Specialist Hospital, Ogoni Power Project, various water projects, and other initiatives of HYPREP”, he said.

The groups said after thorough review of HYPREP operations under the present administration, they resolved to pass a vote of confidence in the Project Coordinator, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey, for piloting the project transparently, equitably, and proficiently.

They reassured the HYPREP Coordinator of their unrelenting support, warning all those engaging in vicious activities against the project to desist, as the youths are poised to ensure the success and sustainability of the project.

They informed members of HYPREP Management who were on hand to receive them that they came to show their solidarity and approval of what the Project Coordinator was doing, and to say, 'thank you to Mr. President' for the presidential pardon, national honours, and commitment to the success of HYPREP in Ogoni.

Receiving a copy of the resolutions and a letter conveying their vote of confidence in the Project Coordinator, Prof. Zabbey, the Head, Technical Services, HYPREP, Prof. Paul Aguiyi thanked the groups for their position, peaceful conduct and for coming to show gratitude and promised to deliver the document to the Project Coordinator, who will forward it to the Minister for onward delivery to the President.

OGONI MOTHERS PASS VOTE OF CONFIDENCE IN HYPREP COORDINATOR

- Say “Prof. Zabbey Has Made Us Proud”

The sustained efforts by the Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey to deliver on the mandate of the Project have continued to attract more accolades and endorsements for him.

The latest endorsement is the vote of confidence passed in the Project Coordinator, Prof. Zabbey by a group of women from the four local Government areas of Ogoni.

The women under the aegis of '*Ogoni Mothers*' who were at the Project Coordination Office of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project, HYPREP, in Port Harcourt on a solidarity and thank you visit to the Project Coordinator, said they have taken time to review the performance of Prof. Zabbey in two years and are satisfied with his achievements.

President of the group, Chief Pricilla Vikue said as Mothers they have appraised the Ogoni clean-up project under Prof. Zabbey and have come to express their sincere appreciation to the Project Coordinator for the visible facilities and projects put in place for the Ogoni people.

The Ogoni Mothers mentioned key milestone achievements such as the construction of the Center of Excellence for Environmental Restoration, Ogoni Specialist Hospital, mangrove restoration, livelihoods and youth empowerment programme, as well as land and shoreline remediation.

While expressing their total support for the Project, the women said they will continue to stand with the Project Coordinator, urging him to stay

strong, and appealed to the people of Ogoni to unite for the good of Ogoniand. “Enough is enough. We will work together and stop tearing down ourselves, because it's time to move forward,” they said.

The Ogoni Mothers expressed appreciation to the Federal Government for supporting HYPREP and appealed that the livelihood programme is sustained with more slots for women.

The Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey, welcomed the Ogoni Mothers to the Project Office, describing their visit as one of the most significant visits to the Project, adding that the Honourable Minister of Environment, Balarabe Abbas Lawal, is always happy with Ogoni women and would be glad to hear that you came to show your acceptance and endorsement of the Project.

Prof. Zabbey enumerated the achievements of the Project so far, which include completion of the remediation of the simple sites, ongoing remediation of the medium complex sites, and characterization of the complex sites that will soon be remediated. He explained that the Center of Excellence for Environmental Restoration is 91% completed.

Other giant strides, he said, are the provision of more than ten water projects inaugurated in two years, which four (4) of them will be commissioned soon by the Honourable Minister of Environment, and that 65 Ogoni communities will have water before the end of 2025,



HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabbey with Ogoni Mothers During their Visit to the Project Office

even as HYPREP plans to give water to as many Ogoni communities as possible.

Prof. Zabbey said the Ogoni Specialist Hospital is on course, with the latest MRI Machine to be installed in it, adding that some foreign research experts are being expected on the project, including the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration that is almost completed.

He stated that every aspect of the Project has livelihoods component and assured that more scholarships will be offered this year, and that 45% of opportunities from all projects would be reserved for women, promising that HYPREP will take time to collate feedback from all stakeholders, including the mothers.

The Project Coordinator disclosed that besides the clean-up, social and

economic study of Ogoni has started for the economic development of the area and appealed to the Ogoni Mothers to continue to support the project.

“To deepen HYPREP's relationship with Ogoni Mothers, a consultative meeting with the mothers will be convened, and we will go back to do our assignment, and will never disappoint anyone”, Prof. Zabbey

NOSDRA/HYPREP JOINT TECHNICAL MEETING, KEY FOR PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY - *Prof. Zabbey*

The Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey has emphasized the importance of joint technical meetings between the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA) and the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP).

Prof. Zabbey who stated this during a NOSDRA/HYPREP Joint Technical Committee Meeting held at the Project

Coordination Office of HYPREP in Port Harcourt, noted that to proffer sustainable solutions to oil spill in Ogoni, it is important for the agency and HYPREP to meet and discuss the technical actions to take in addressing the environmental problems in the area.

The Project Coordinator said progress cannot be made on the project without intermittent joint technical meetings between the two establishments, assuring that under his watch, there

will be effective conversations and consultations for the project to keep to the stipulated standards for a thorough land and shoreline remediation of Ogoni land as well as providing alternative livelihoods for the people. According to him, “how do we manage oil pollution in our environment sustainably without a joint technical meeting that is basically a platform to brainstorm sustainable solutions on oil spill management? He observed that the



HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabbey with Staff of HYPREP, NOSDRA & Community Representatives During a Joint Technical Meeting

joint technical committee meeting is a very crucial platform for coordination, collaboration and alignment for the technical efforts in the ongoing remediation and restoration works that HYPREP is doing in Ogoniland, adding that NOSDRA has a national coverage in terms of first tier oil spill response and the responsibility of regulating HYPREP operations.

“So, it makes it even more pertinent to come together to share our lessons and come up with a framework that is sustainable, that is coming from us,” he stressed.

Prof. Zabbey commended the NOSDRA technical team on their disposition to ensure harmony, success and sustainability of the project.

The Head of the NOSDRA technical team, Director, Planning Policy Analysis and Research Department, Dr. Olusola Samson, commended the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project on the successes made so far

on the project, explaining that such feat could not have been possible without an effective collaboration and understanding amongst the various stakeholders.

Dr. Samson said a NOSDRA/HYPREP relationship is not a regulatory and implementation situation but that both institutions work as partners, adding that NOSDRA is committed to ensuring that standards are not compromised, and that all parties keep to their respective collaborative roles.

The Joint forum featured status presentations by various operational heads and HYPREP technical team, particularly, update on ongoing remediation projects (soil and groundwater remediation, shoreline clean up, and mangrove restoration), while the NOSDRA technical team gave the oversight and monitoring update.

The strategic planning session had deliberations on short-term technical

priorities, and alignment on key performance indicators and monitoring metrics.

The meeting had in attendance top officials of NOSDRA, including Director, Oil Field Assessment Department, Dr. Komommo Omini Abam; Deputy Director and Head, Reference Laboratory, Dr. Kenneth Aroh; and Assistant Director, Oil Field Assessment Department, Mr. Sylvester Agoh. Others are Assistant Director and Head, Port Harcourt Zonal Office, Mr. Augustine Bello; Chief Environmental Scientist, Oil Field Assessment Department, Mr. Mohammed Gumsuri; and Assistant Chief Environmental Scientist, Port Harcourt Zonal Office, Mr. Ismaila Ahmed.

The HYPREP Team, led by the Project Coordinator, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey, had the Director, Technical Services, Prof. Damian-Paul Aguiyi; Heads of Unit and Technical Team Leads.

FEATURE

THE GRADUAL RETURN OF ECOSYSTEM GOODS AND SERVICES FOLLOWING LARGE-SCALE MANGROVE RESTORATION IN Ogoniland, NIGERIA

Zabbey, N., Uche, I., Hart, A., Nwibubasa, B. and Tanee, F.B.G.

Nigeria has started the world's most extensive restoration of oil-degraded mangroves covering over 3000 ha in Ogoniland. This significant project in the Gulf of Guinea is implemented by the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP). HYPREP is a project under the Federal Ministry of Environment (FME), Nigeria, saddled with implementing the recommendations of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Report 2011 on the environmental assessment of Ogoniland.

The UNEP Report recommends restoring oil-degraded mangroves in Ogoniland and potentially seeking the declaration of the region's restored mangroves as a RAMSAR Site. HYPREP commenced mangrove restoration using a community-based approach with a 560-ha-pilot in the Bomu community in late 2023. The restorative planting of multispecies



Planting of mangrove seedlings by community workers

mangroves has reached a 92% completion stage, with 1,382,373 red, black, and white mangrove seedlings (a ratio of 8:1:1).

HYPREP has implemented a robust and accountable monitoring programme for the planted mangroves and recovered fauna. The monitoring team comprises federal and state government regulators, civil society organizations, community representatives, and HYPREP. One month after planting, the monitoring team evaluates the survival and growth of the planted

seedlings. Only grids with at least 95% plant survival are confirmed, and all the planted grids surpassed the approval percentage criterion. Every planted grid (1.1 – 10.6 ha) has three to five monitoring plots, depending on the grid size. Each monitoring plot (approximately seven square meters) has five randomly chosen plants at each cardinal point and a central point tagged and measured every three months. Plant growth performance parameters measured include increases in height, leaf count, girth, and branch number, as well as the presence of prop roots or pneumatophores and the condition of the plant using a scale (1 -5) with five as the best condition rating.

Additionally, volunteer plants (i.e., natural recruits or individuals not planted) and fauna in each monitoring plot are recorded. Although the restorative planting began a year ago, it has started yielding measurable returns of ecosystem goods and services. A notable observation is the gradual



Active Monitoring of Planted Mangrove Seedlings in a Delineated Area

return to the restoration site of some fauna that weren't sighted at the start of and during the restorative planting. The animals are mainly juveniles dispersed by tidal waters to the site. The improved habitat diversity, associated amended environmental conditions, and the presence of the mangrove seedlings support the faunal re-establishment (i.e., retention and growth). These include various crabs, West African mud creeper (locally called periwinkles), oysters, dogwhelk, mangrove periwinkle, mudskippers, and shrimps. Most interestingly, is the sighting of the Nile monitor, which is currently very scarce in the region. This systematic monitoring regime will continue for twenty-four months, followed by a long-term remote sensing and bi-yearly ground-truth monitoring. HYPREP plans to establish a chair for mangrove wetland research and development at a local university to guarantee the multi-decade institutional monitoring of the restored mangroves.

As earlier reported, a pre-restoration fish stock assessment was conducted to establish a baseline for fish diversity and abundance, to which post-restoration fish stock data shall be compared to determine the restoration fisheries enhancement service.

The project demonstrates the resilience of mangroves and the sustainability benefit of collaboration, community buy-in, and participation in mangrove restoration. Complementary conservation efforts are underway to safeguard the



Dog Whelk (*Thais spp*)

'restored' mangroves from harvesting and related disturbances. Clean cook stoves had been distributed to some riparian women who depend on mangrove wood for cooking. Besides direct and indirect jobs created by the restorative planting and monitoring activities, youths and women in the area are trained in different demand-driven skills and issued start-up kits.

The hands-on experience gained by the community workers involved in the mangrove restoration (the mangrove vanguards), added to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) certificates they are issued, enhances their employability for similar projects in and outside Ogoniland.



Mud skipper (*Periopthalmus papilio*)

PICTURES OF THE MONTH



HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabbey Celebrates Birthday



HYPREP Staff Celebrate with Project Coordinator, Prof. Zabbey on His Birthday



Participants at HYPREP Stakeholders Engagement/Midterm Scorecard Presentation



Participants at HYPREP Stakeholders Engagement/Midterm Scorecard Presentation



HYPREP, PC, Prof. Zabbey (R) with the Editor, HYPREP Herald, Kpoobari Nafu after the Stakeholders Engagement/Midterm Scorecard Presentation



Emere of Eleme Kingdom, HRM King Philip Obele (M), HRH Bebe Okpabe (L), HRH Emperor J.D. Nkpe (R) During HYPREP Courtesy Visit to the King's Palace

OGONI CLEAN-UP ...HYPREP SPEARHEADING MANGROVE RESTORATION

POETRY CORNER

Ogoni Rising Dawn

O gentle soil where Niger's waters run,
Thy wounds were deep beneath the burning skies,
Yet hope, like morning dew, has just begun
To kiss the earth where once were mournful cries.

The oil-stained streams now dream of flowing clear,
While mangrove roots recall their ancient grace;
Each tree reborn wipes off the bitter tear
That time and greed once carved upon thy face.

Brave Ogoni, thy spirit still remains,
Unbowed by scars, yet softened by the rain.
The sons and daughters, rising through the pains,
Now till the land where justice breaks the chain.

Let healing bloom where darkness once had crept—
Ogoni lives, and shall no more be wept.

Editorial Crew

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Godwin Norbana	Camera
Lekue Akpo	Camera

Photo:HYPREP



THE ENVIRONMENT ON MARBLE

“I’m planting a tree to teach me to make the world a better place.”

- Andrea Koehle Jones

Photo:HYPREP

... for a cleaner and greener Ogoniland

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All Correspondence to the Editor: #8 Ken Saro-Wiwa Road, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria.

Email: info@hyprep.gov.ng website: www.hyprep.gov.ng twitter: [@HYPREP_Nigeria](https://twitter.com/HYPREP_Nigeria)